THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A self contributory Superannuation pension scheme for employees of Indian Airlines retiring on or after 1st April, 1994 was approved by the Government in May, 1997 and Commissioner of Income Tax in December, 1997.

(b) The Indian Airlines employees self-contributory Superannuation pension scheme provides for employees monthly contribution of 1% to 5% of their salaries. Details of year-wise contribution deducted from the employees are as under:—

Year	Rs. In Crores
1998-99	20.17
1999-2000	22.20
2000-2001	29.18

(c) The Scheme is managed through a Trust, which purchases annuities from LIC for eligible retirees opting for the annuity. The annuities are purchased in phases subject to availability of fund generated from the contribution of employees. So far, the eligible employees retired between April, 1994 and January, 2000 and who opted for pension/annuity have been given the benefit.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) there are 22 cases of claims received from the dependents of the deceased employees. These cases would be given priority in purchase of annuity subject to availability of funds with the trust and fulfilment of other necessary conditions.

New flights from Bangalore

3060. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passenger traffic has steadily increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning to start new flights from Bangalore to various destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Domestic air passenger traffic increase during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Domestic Passenger carried (in lakhs)
1998	118.6
1999	122.3
2000	133.2

(c) and (d) Airlines are free to connect any place/routes based on their commercial judgement subject, of course, to the compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

Direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah

3061. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has started direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah;

(b) if so, whether there is enough passenger traffic from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the other Air India flights proposed to be added from Hyderabad in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India commenced operation of direct flight from Hyderabad to Jeddah once a week on Wednesdays effective 16th May, 2001.

(c) Air India is constantly monitoring the market situation and as and when there is demand and subject to commercial viability, they will add more flights from Hyderabad.